

## PLASTIC POLLUTION IS EVERYWHERE

- Plastic pollution can now be found on every beach in the world, from busy tourist beaches to uninhabited, tropical islands nowhere is safe.
- Scientists have recently discovered micro plastics embedded deep in the Arctic ice.
- There is even plastic pollution on the moon! Left behind after the one of the Apollo Moon Landings between 1960 and 1972.
- In 1950, the world's population of 2.5 billion produced 1.5 million tons of plastic; in 2016, a global population of more than 7 billion people produced over 320 million tons of plastic. This is set to double by 2034.
- Plastics consistently make up 60 to 90% of all marine debris studied in the world.
- Plastics make up 70% of all litter in the UK, the majority of which ends up in the seas.
- The density of plastic litter found on UK beaches increased by 146% between 1994 and 2008.
- Approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans every day.
- Over 12 million tonnes of plastic flow into our oceans each year.
- There may now be around 5.25 trillion - macro and micro plastic - pieces floating in the open ocean.
- Of that mass, 269,000 tons floats on the surface (equivalent to 1492 Blue Whales at 181 tonnes each).
- Four billion plastic microfibers per square kilometre litter the deep sea.
- Plastic doesn't disappear it just breaks down into smaller and smaller plastic pieces that accumulate in our oceans and become a danger to marine life.
- Once in the ocean plastic can accumulate toxins naturally present in the environment, and can potentially release toxins incorporated at the point of manufacture, becoming toxic bombs!
- There are now approximately 5000 items of plastic litter for every mile of UK beaches
- In 2016 over 150 plastic bottles were found per mile of UK beaches.
- **A plastic bottle** can take up to 450 years to break down in the marine environment.
- Recent studies have revealed marine plastic pollution in 100% of marine turtles, 59% of whales, 36% of seals and 40% of seabird species examined
- 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds are killed by marine plastic pollution annually
- **Marine litter kills** over 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds each year through ingestion and entanglement.